



Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona

NEWS RELEASE

1110 West Washington, Suite 290 • Phoenix, Arizona 85007 • www.azwifa.gov

Date: July 18, 2006

Contact: Tiffany Troidl, Communications Director: (602) 364-1314

WIFA Approves Emergency Grant Funds For Cochise County Water Systems

PHOENIX –Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) Chairman Steve Owens announced today that the Board of Directors has authorized a \$12,500 emergency loan to the Arizona Small Utilities Association (ASUA) to help address the water and health crisis in Cochise County. The inadequate water production has caused extensive service outages and interruptions for people served by the Cochise and Horseshoe water companies.

The \$12,500 in loan funds is provided through a July 8, 2005 Executive Order (E.O. 2005-18) from Governor Napolitano. Governor Napolitano's executive order made funds available to WIFA from the Health Crisis Fund (A.R.S. §36-797). In turn, WIFA is providing the emergency loan to ASUA. The loan proceeds will fund the acquisition and installation of a well pump to serve the Cochise and Horseshoe water systems and a hydroneumatic tank to serve the Sierra Sunset water system. The installation of the pump and tank should help restore water service to these communities. ASUA will repay the money to the Arizona Department of Health Services.

The financial assistance described above, coupled with the \$50,000 WIFA emergency technical assistance grant the Board approved at its June 15th meeting, provides ASUA with significant resources to work to bring these systems back in to shape.

“WIFA funds will provide much needed assistance to help improve the positions of these water systems,” said WIFA Chairman Steve Owens.

The technical assistance grant funds awarded in June will be used for transmission line and infrastructure mapping of the six Cochise County water systems that ASUA is managing under an interim operating agreement with the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC).

-30-

ABOUT THE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY OF ARIZONA

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona maintains and improves water quality in Arizona by providing communities and private water systems with access to low-interest financial assistance and technical assistance needed for basic water infrastructure. WIFA's funds are capitalized by contributions from the US Congress and the state of Arizona. As a leader in water infrastructure finance, WIFA has become a premier financial institution both in Arizona and nationally. Visit WIFA's Web site at www.azwifa.gov.